Paris 20th. Jan.y 1777.

Gentlemen

++ B. 342.25

I have met with disappointments, unexpected, as they have been affecting, after Orders, and Counter Orders, and Manœuvres the very history of which would fill a Volume. The Amphitrite parted with the first parcel of the Stores on the 14th Ult.o and I was then in full Confidence that the other Vessels would instantly follow, as they lay ready in their different Ports, when to my surprize counter Orders arrivd — while Labouring to remove these, The Amphitrite returnd into port, pretendedly thro' a want of Live Stock &c, &c by the Officers — The Capt.n has protested that he returnd, in Consequence of the positive Orders of Mons.r Du Coudray to whom a superior power was given — I have no Time to decide so disputable a point, as that, respecting Mons.r Du Coudrays return, but the consequences have been bad. — This I must say, he acted an unwise and injudicious part,

in

in returning into the Port he did, as he thereby gave a fresh alarm to the Ministry, and occasioned a second Counter Order, indeed Mons.r Du Coudray appeared to have solely in View, his own Case, Safety & emolument, and instead of instantly dispatching the Ship with Supplies, and thereby preventing a Noise, he left the Ship and returnd quite to Paris without the least Grounds that I can find for his Conduct, and has laid his Scheme to pass into America in a Ship without the Artillery, which is inconsistent and absurd, and contrary to our Original Agreement and Constant Understanding. as I engag'd with this man, solely on account of the Artillery he was to assist in procureing, expediting and attending in Person, his Desertion of this Charge, with his other Conduct make me wish, he may not arrive in America at all, I am sensible that my different situation, may affect you, and therefore I shall if possible, prevent his going out at all. —

with

with respect to the other Stores they are embarked,
and I am promised a permit, which is all
I may say on the Subject, which is left solely
to my management by my Colleagues.—
Mons.r Du Cudray not content with leaving
the Ship took with him the Papers which
occasioned a still farther delay after she was ready,
but I will not enlarge on these disagreable
Topics but wishing the Stores at Hand

I am with much Esteem Gentl.n—

Your most Obedient and very
Humble Servant.

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Messrs. Morris & C.

Copy of Letter to
the Secret Committee.
Janry 20th 1777

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